

Message Text

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47

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 SSO-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 IO-14 PC-15

PRS-01 PA-04 USIE-00 HEW-08 AGR-20 NSCE-00 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /210 W
----- 022204

O 171510Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3970

INFO USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

DOD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TUNIS 6980

FOR DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

CINCEUR FOR FDRC LTC R. KIMBALL

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SWEL, TS

SUBJ: SUMMARY REPORT - TUNISIA FLOOD RELIEF - SITREP NO. 5

(FINAL)

REF: TUNIS 6962

1. WEATHER CONTINUES GOOD AND IS CURRENTLY PREDICTED TO REMAIN
SO. FLOOD WATERS HAVE BY AND LARGE RECEDED THROUGHOUT AREA
AFFECTED BUT SOME FLOODED DISTRICTS REMAIN. MOST MAJOR
ROADS NOW OPEN, ALTHOUGH GABES STILL REMAINS CUT OFF FROM NORTH.
BULK SUPPLIES CAN NOW BE DELIVERED BY ROAD EXCEPT TO GABES AND
SOME OTHER ISOLATED VILLAGES. ACCORDING TO GOT, APPROXIMATELY
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59 PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES AS A RESULT OF THE FLOODS. ALSO

APPROXIMATELY 3,240 PERSONS WERE INITIALLY HOMELESS, ALTHOUGH MANY OF THESE ARE NOW ABLE TO GET BACK TO THEIR DOMICILES. AN ESTIMATED 920 HOUSES DESTROYED. GOT ESTIMATES OF FLOOD DAMAGE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN.

2. WITH AGREEMENT OF GOT, US FLOOD RELIEF OPERATION TERMINATED AT 1900 LOCAL TIME DEC 16. U.S. HELICOPTERS USED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION COMPRISED: ONE CH-53 AND THREE CH-46 FROM MARINE AIR UNIT OF USS IWO JIMA AND ONE CH-46 FROM CINCSOUTH NAPLES. NUMBER OF SORTIES: 92 CH-46 AND 17 CH-53. AMOUNT OF SUPPLIES TRANSPORTED: ESTIMATED 105,700 LBS. OF MATERIEL AND 197 PASSENGERS DURING DEC 14-16. HOURS FLOWN: 18.8 FOR CH-53 AND 73.0 FOR CH-46.

3. MOST SUCCESSFUL ASPECT OF U.S. OPERATION WAS RAPIDITY AND ADEQUACY OF U.S. RESPONSE ONCE INITIAL CONTACT WAS MADE WITH COMSIXTHFLT. MAJOR ROLE OF U.S. OPERATION WAS DELIVERY OF BULK SUPPLIES INCLUDING TENTS, MEDICINES, FOOD AND BLANKETS TO DISASTER AREAS. THIS DELIVERY FUNCTION WAS GREATLY FACILITATED BY AVAILABILITY OF INCOUNTRY STOCKS OF RELIEF SUPPLIES. THUS OVERALL DISASTER RELIEF GOALS WERE FULLY MET.

4. ONLY DIFFICULTY EXPERIENCED CONCERNED COMMUNICATIONS, PARTICULARLY INITIAL EMBASSY EFFORTS CONTACT COMSIXTHFLT. THIS PROBLEM WAS OF A TECHNICAL NATURE AND WILL BE ADDRESSED THROUGH APPROPRIATE CHANNELS.

5. GOT CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS EXTENDED FULL COOPERATION AND WARM HOSPITALITY TO U.S. PERSONNEL. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME INITIAL PROBLEMS IN ESTABLISHING OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES, THESE WERE QUICKLY SETTLED. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING NECESSARY LIAISON FACILITIES, TUNISIAN AIR FORCE ALSO SUPPLIED RECONNAISSANCE HELICOPTERS (INCLUDING ONE RECENTLY DELIVERED UH-1H).

6. OTHER INTERNATIONAL RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDED:
A. FRANCE - ONE TRANSVAL FIXED WING AIRCRAFT WHICH CARRIED OUT TWO SUPPLY FLIGHTS:

B. ITALY - FIVE HELICOPTERS WHICH CARRIED SUPPLIES PRIMARILY
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TO KAIROUAN AREA.

C. TWO LIBYAN HELICOPTZRS WHICH OPERATED OUT OF JERBA.

7. PHOTOGRAPHS OF RELIEF OPERATIONS TAKEN BY NAVY PHOTO TEAM AS WELL AS EMBASSY USIS PHOTOGRAPHER. GLOSSY PRINTS WILL BE FORWARDED TO DRC SOONEST.

8. COST OF OPERATION WAS HELD TO MINIMUM AND EMBASSY NOW ESTIMATES THAT TOTAL COST WILL NOT EXCEED INITIAL \$25,000 ALLOCATION. INT THIS CONNECTION GOT HAS ABSORBED ALL COSTS RELATING TO IN-COUNTRY OPERATIONAL FUEL, LODGING AND SUBSISTENCE UTILIZED BY INCOUNTRY U.S. PERSONNEL.

9. EMBASSY DOES NOT PRESENTLY ANTICIPATE GOT REQUEST FOR LONG-TERM USG ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITATION OF FLOODED AREAS.

10. GOT AT EVERY LEVEL HAS EXPRESSED DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR RAPIDITY AND PROFESSIONALISM OF U.S. RELIEF OPERATIONS. EMBASSY WISHES COMMEND ALL OFFICERS AND MEN INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION FOR THEIR COOPERATIVE SPIRIT AND DETERMINATION TO DO BEST JOB POSSIBLE AND PARTICULARLY EFFORTS OF COMSIXTHFLT, CINCSOUTH, CTF 61 AND 62, ALONG WITH THEIR MARINE AND NAVAL UNITS. THESE EFFORTS HAVE ENHANCED TUNISIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND ADVANCED U.S. INTERESTS IN TUNISIA.
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